

Adelaide Convention Centre, where the ALIA National 2016 Conference will be held from Monday 29 August to Friday 2 September 2016.



ARE YOU READY?

hope you're packing your port and sharpening your pencils! The ALIA National 2016 Conference is drawing nearer and everyone at ALIA is very excited. There are so many reasons why you should be there.

You'll get to meet Barbara Schack from Bibliothèques Sans Frontières – or Libraries Without Borders – which is based in Paris. And Dr Neil Carrington, the CEO of Act For KIDS, an organisation dedicated to supporting abused and neglected children. There is a fascinating variety of speakers at this year's conference, from our own Australian industry and also from overseas. You can participate in workshops that will help you improve your marketing and social media skills. You can also learn all about grey literature.

The value of the National Conference cannot be understated. The speakers you listen to and the other participants who you'll meet will set off pinpricks of ideas in your mind. And you will come away from the conference with those pinpricks of inspiration growing ever larger into ideas that you can apply in your own workplaces and in the wider networks to which your workplace is connected. This is the most exciting thing for me about these big get-togethers. They are so inspiring, and they open our minds to all sorts of new opportunities.

But a conference is also a great time to socialise with your peers from around Australia and the rest of the world. Making connections is so important. It helps to strengthen

our LIS community and clarify our goals. And a sense of cohesion and common purpose is imperative for our growth.

Conferences are particularly important for those who come from remote areas, not only to learn about new products and services and to discover new ideas, but also to underscore the reality that our rural and remote colleagues are just as much part of our community as our urban colleagues are. So I hope over the four days that you'll all extend your hands and introduce yourself to any LIS colleagues you don't know.

And Adelaide, I'm sure, will provide a warm welcome. There are so many things to do there, from hopping on a tram to the beach or heading into the hills, to taking a tour of the University of South Australia or the Art Gallery of SA. And I'm sure many will be keen for a tasting of the fabulous SA wines. But don't let any excessive enjoyment of the beverages on offer become an excuse for an afternoon kip!

So check out the program online and make sure you get as much as possible out of your conference. Have a great time, and enjoy yourself and all that Adelaide has to offer! ✨

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